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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 AEC-11 OMB-01 IO-13 OIC-04

H-02 NSC-10 SS-15 MC-02 RSR-01 /155 W
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P R 101747Z JUL 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 773
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3275

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR WORKING GROUP

REF: USNATO 3195

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STEINHOFF LETTER TO SYG ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF MBFR WORKING GROUP, WHICH WAS REFERRED TO BY SYG IN JULY 5 NAC (PARA 1 REFTEL). LETTER WAS CIRCULATED AS PO/73/101 ON JULY 9. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT

AS A FOLLOW-UP TO OUR DISCUSSION ON 18TH JUNE REGARDING THE MBFR WORKING GROUP AND ITS FUTURE ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE NAC, MAY I PRESENT THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS, WITH WHICH VADM MINTER, CHAIRMAN OF THE MBFR WORKING GROUP, IS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT?

FIRST, I THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT THE COUNCIL APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT THE WORKING GROUP HAS NO SPECIFIC RELATIONSHIP TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AS SUCH. THE WORKING GROUP WAS CREATED FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION TO THE NAC ON MATTERS RELATING TO MBFR. IT HAS, AS YOU KNOW, AN OPEN-CONFIDENTIAL

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ENDED MEMBERSHIP OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EXPERTS, AND, WHILE IT IS CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE, HE DOES NOT RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM, NOR IS HE RESPONSIBLE TO, THE MILITARYCOMMITTEE CONCERNING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING

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GROUP. THE WORKING GROUP, IN SHORT, IS THE TOOL OF THE COUNCIL, TO BE USED AS THE COUNCIL WISHES.

I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE WORKING GROUP INCLUDES AMONG ITS MEMBERSHIP INDIVIDUALS RECOGNIZED BY THEIR NATIONS AS EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AND SPECIFICALLY IN MBFR; HENCE, IT COLLECTIVELY REPRESENTS THE MOST EXPERT OPINION ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO COUNCIL, AND, IN MY VIEW, SHOULD BE FULLY UTILIZED AS SUCH. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE VERY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WORK WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THE WORKING GROUP DURING ITS THREE YEARS OF EXISTANCE, AND OF THE FACT THAT MUCH OF THIS MATERIAL CAN VERY PROFITABLY BE EMPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF COUNCIL DECISIONS YET TO BE MADE REGARDING GUIDELINES, ACCEPTABLE OUTCOMES, NEGOTIATING POSITIONS, ETC. THE FOUR SUB-GROUPS OF THE WORKING GROUP-VERIFICATION, DATA, CONSTRAINTS, AND TACTICAL AIR-ARE WELL ORGANIZED AND CAPABLE OF PROVIDING DETAILED EVALUATION IN THESE TECHNICAL AREAS.

THE MBFR WORKING GROUP HAS NOT YET BEEN DIRECTED BY COUNCIL TO ADDRESS THE "US APPROACH TO MBFR", ALTHOUGH, AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE DIRECTED SACEUR TO SUBMIT A PURELY MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF THE THREE US MBFR OPTIONS. IN VIEW OF COUNCIL'S PREOCCUPATION WITH DEVELOPING AGREED GUIDELINES AND REVIEWING NATIONAL REACTIONS TO THE US PAPER, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT NO SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO THE MBFR WORKING GROUP WAS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED NECESSARY. NOW, HOWEVER, AFTER MORE THAN SIX WEEKS OF COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING THE US PAPER, IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE FOR AN EARLY MEETING TO DECIDE WHAT COUNCIL WISHES THE MBFR WORKING GROUP TO BE TASKED TO DO WITH RESPECT TO THE US PAPER. YOU ARE AWARE THAT MANY OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE A KEEN INTEREST IN THE ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING GROUP AND FEEL, AS I DO, THAT IT HAS THE CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH VALUABLE MATERIAL THAT WILL BE OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE TO OUR NEGOTIATORS THIS FALL.

IN SUMMARY, BY CAREFULLY CO-ORDINATING THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS SUBORDINATE BODIES-THE SPC, THE MBFR WORKING GROUP, AND THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES-WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE ALLIANCE WITH AN AGREED, CO-ORDINATED AND SOUND NEGOTIATING STRATEGY PRIOR TO BEGINNING SUBSTANTIVE TALKS. THE MBFR WORKING GROUP HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS

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PROCESS, AND SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO SO.
END TEXT.
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